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PATENTSAttorney Docket No. UV-114

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants : Edward B. Knudson et al.

Application No. : 09/357,941 Confirmation No. : 9900

Filed : July 16, 1999

For : INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Group Art Unit : 2611

Examiner : Kieu Oanh T. Bui

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Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

The undersigned, along with her colleague Adam M. Saltzman, Reg. No. 52,188, conducted a personal interview at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 13, 2003 with the Examiner and Supervisory Primary Examiner Andrew Faile of Art Unit 2600. The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner and the SPE for the courtesies extended during the personal interview.

During the personal interview, the undersigned and Mr. Saltzman, on behalf of Assignee, raised a number of matters relating to the merits of the rejections set forth in the August 27, 2003 Office Action. The following summarizes the outcome of the personal interview with respect to each of the ten currently pending claim sets.

Claims 1-6, 22-27 and 43-48

The undersigned and Mr. Saltzman submitted that the art of record does not show or suggest "a separator embedded within the navigatable program listings." The Examiner, however, believed that the claim required further amendment. To facilitate prosecution, the undersigned proposed amending independent claims 1, 22 and 43 as shown in the Appendix attached hereto. The Examiner found claims 1-6, 22-27 and 43-48 to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record based on the proposed amendment.

Claims 7-9, 28-30 and 49-51

The undersigned and Mr. Saltzman proposed amending independent claims 7, 28 and 49 as shown in the Appendix attached hereto. The Examiner found claims 7-9, 28-30 and 49-51 to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record based on the proposed amendment.

Claims 10-13, 31-34 and 52-55

The Examiner did not find claims 10-13, 31-34 and 52-55 to be novel or nonobvious over the art of record.

Claims 14, 35 and 56

The Examiner found claims 14, 35 and 56 to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record.

Claims 15, 36 and 57

The Examiner did not find claims 15, 36 and 57 to be novel or nonobvious over the art of record.

Claims 16, 37 and 58

As stated in the Examiner's November 13, 2003 Interview Summary, the Examiner found the undersigned's arguments with respect to claims 16, 37 and 58* be persuasive, and therefore found the claims to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record.

Claims 18, 39 and 60

The Examiner found claims 18, 39 and 60 to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record.

* In the Examiner's Interview Summary, the Examiner referred only to system claim 16. However, it follows that the undersigned's argument is also persuasive with respect to corresponding method claim 37 and means-plus-function claim 58.

Claims 19, 40 and 61

The Examiner found claims 19, 40 and 61 to be novel and nonobvious over the art of record.

Claims 20, 41 and 62

The Examiner did not find claims 20, 41 and 62 to be novel or nonobvious over the art of record.

Claim 64-81

The Examiner did not find claims 64-81 to be novel or nonobvious over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura A. Sheridan

Laura A. Sheridan
Registration No. 48,446
Agent for Applicants
FISH & NEAVE
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000
Fax: (212) 596-9090

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APPENDIX
(Showing the Proposed Amendments
to Claims 1, 7, 22, 28, 43 and 49)

1. An interactive television program guide system comprising:
 - a program guide data source for providing program guide data comprising program listings; and
 - an interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment, wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to display on the user television equipment a program listings screen having a plurality of navigatable program listings and a separator embedded ~~within~~ between two of the navigatable program listings, wherein the separator visually separates the navigatable program listings into two regions each of which is associated with a different time slot, and wherein the separator contains information associated with one of the time slots.
7. An interactive television program guide system comprising:

a program guide data source for providing
program guide data comprising program listings; and

an interactive television program guide
implemented on interactive television program guide equipment
having user television equipment, wherein the interactive
television program guide is configured to:

display on the user television equipment a
program guide display screen having an on-screen arrow that
indicates to a user an available action; and

to change a display characteristic of the
on-screen arrow in response to the user performing the
available action without removing the on-screen arrow from the
program guide display screen.

22. A method for use in an interactive television
program guide system comprising the steps of:

providing program guide data comprising program
listings; and

displaying with an interactive television
program guide implemented on interactive television program
guide equipment having user television equipment on the user
television equipment a program listings screen having a

plurality of navigatable program listings and a separator embedded ~~within~~ between two of the navigatable program listings, wherein the separator visually separates the navigatable program listings into two regions each of which is associated with a different time slot, and wherein the separator contains information associated with one of the time slots.

28. A method for use in an interactive television program guide system comprising the steps of:

providing program guide data comprising program listings;

displaying with an interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment on the user television equipment a program guide display screen having an on-screen arrow that indicates to a user an available action; and

changing a display characteristic of the on-screen arrow with the interactive television program guide in response to the user performing the available action without

removing the on-screen arrow from the program guide display screen.

43. An interactive television program guide system comprising:

means for providing program guide data comprising program listings; and

means for displaying with an interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment on the user television equipment a program listings screen having a plurality of navigatable program listings and a separator embedded ~~within~~ between two of the navigatable program listings, wherein the separator visually separates the navigatable program listings into two regions each of which is associated with a different time slot, and wherein the separator contains information associated with one of the time slots.

49. An interactive television program guide system comprising:

means for providing program guide data comprising program listings; and

means for displaying with an interactive television program guide implemented on interactive television program guide equipment having user television equipment on the user television equipment a program guide display screen having an on-screen arrow that indicates to a user an available action; and

means for changing a display characteristic of the on-screen arrow with the interactive television program guide in response to the user performing the available action without removing the on-screen arrow from the program guide display screen.